

SECRET INVASION™

THOR®





HIS AGONY IS
UNIMAGINABLE.

BEFORE IT, ALL HE
KNEW WAS DARKNESS,
AND TIME-WITHOUT-
TIME. HE WAS IN LIMBO.
HE WAS NOWHERE.

AND
NOW...



THERE IS
NOTHING
BUT PAIN...

AND VELOCITY.
UNCONTROLLABLE,
CEASELESS VELOCITY.



IS THIS
HELL?

IT MUST
BE.

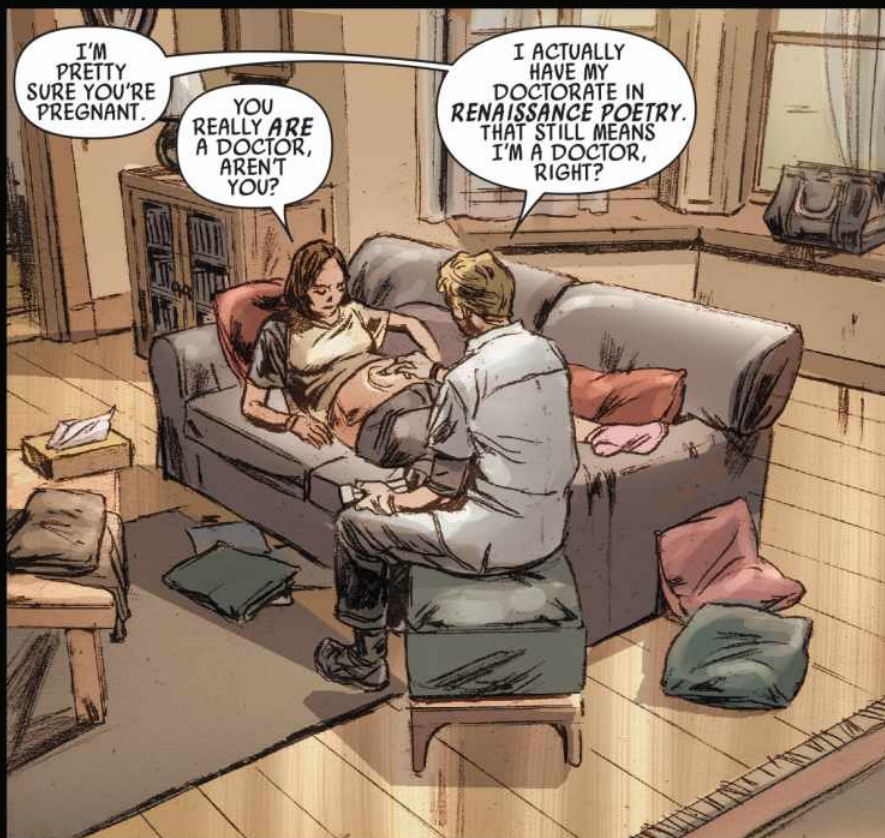


HELL IS A
COLUMN
OF FIRE...

DRILLING
STRAIGHT INTO
THE HEART OF
THE WORLD.



NOW, I KNOW I'M NOT YOUR REGULAR OB/GYN, MARIE, SO I HOPE THIS ISN'T GROUND YOU GUYS HAVE ALREADY COVERED, BUT...



I'M PRETTY SURE YOU'RE PREGNANT.

YOU REALLY ARE A DOCTOR, AREN'T YOU?

I ACTUALLY HAVE MY DOCTORATE IN RENAISSANCE POETRY. THAT STILL MEANS I'M A DOCTOR, RIGHT?



THIS'LL BE A LITTLE COLD.

THERE WE GO. SOUNDING GREAT.

WOWOW
WOWOW
WOWOW
WOWOW



WHEW! I JUST--I JUST STARTED TO GET NERVOUS AND THEN I THOUGHT HE WASN'T KICKING AND THEN--



IT'S OKAY.



I JUST--OF COURSE, WEEK THIRTY-SEVEN, MY REAL DOCTOR'S THREE TOWNS OVER--I'M JUST SO WORRIED IT'LL ALL GO TO POT RIGHT HERE AT THE FINISH LINE.

MARIE, YOU'RE DOING FINE. THE BABY SOUNDS FINE.



YOU'RE A SCOONCH DILATED AND EVERYTHING'S SOUNDING EXACTLY LIKE IT SHOULD SOUND. IF YOUR WATER BREAKS OR CONTRACTIONS START, WE'LL DEAL WITH IT.

THE BABY'LL LET YOU KNOW WHEN IT'S BABY TIME. THE BEST THING YOU CAN DO IS JUST STAY CALM AND STAY HERE IN BROXTON UNTIL BABY SAYS OTHERWISE.



I KNOW.
I KNOW, IT'S
JUST--

FIRST
BABY.

IT'S
MY FIRST
BABY.



IT'S OKAY.
JUST REMEMBER,
BABY'S NICE AND
CALM AS LONG AS
MOMMA STAYS
NICE AND...



...CALM.

THE NOISE IS BIGGER
THAN ANYTHING ANYONE
IN BROXTON HAD EVER
HEARD BEFORE.

LOUDER THAN
THUNDER, HEAVIER
THAN ALL OF
HEAVEN ITSELF.



IT BLOWS WINDOWS IN,
IT KNOCKS FAMILY PHOTOS
OFF OF WALLS, AND IT
TERRIFIES EVERY DOG,
CAT, AND HORSE FOR
THIRTY MILES.

WHAT WAS
THAT?

BLAKE ISN'T
REALLY FROM
AROUND HERE.

AND THUS, IN HIS HEART
OF HEARTS, BLAKE
KNOWS THE ANSWER TO
HER QUESTION BEFORE
SHE EVEN FINISHES ASKING...



ASGARD IS BURNING.



MARIE, I NEED YOU TO STAY HERE, OKAY?

I HAVE TO GO SEE WHAT THAT WAS.

WHAT DO YOU THINK IT WAS?

HE KNOWS.

I DUNNO, GRAIN SILO EXPLODED MAYBE.



HEY, SPEAKING OF, DOC?

EITHER I JUST WET MY PANTS OR MY WATER BROKE.

HER WATER BROKE.



MAYBE A PLANE CRASH, WHATEVER IT WAS, THEY'LL NEED A DOCTOR.

BLAKE'S LYING, SOMETHING'S WRONG IN ASGARD--HE NEEDS TO GET TO--



CONGRATULATIONS, MARIE. YOU'RE OFFICIALLY IN LABOR.

NOW, LABOR TENDS TO BE LONG, ARDUOUS, AND A LITTLE SLOW--BUT I PROMISE YOU, TODAY, MAYBE TONIGHT, WE'RE GONNA HAVE THIS BABY.

AND WE'LL START JUST AS SOON AS I GET BACK.

INDEED, THE BABY WAS ON ITS WAY. BLAKE CALLED FOR A NURSE PRACTITIONER AND STAYED WITH MARIE UNTIL SHE ARRIVED.

THEN HE TOOK HIS LEAVE.

AS SOON AS HE WAS OUT OF SIGHT HE RAN.

AND WHEN HE STOPPED RUNNING, HE SUMMONED...

THE MIGHTY THOR.

FIRST SON OF ASGARD. ITS LORD AND RULER. ITS HEART AND SOUL.

ITS PROTECTOR.



THERE WAS FIRE.

AND SO THE GOD OF THUNDER BROUGHT RAIN.

THOR!



BALDER.

WHAT HAPPENED?



I DO NOT KNOW. THINGS WERE FINE AND THEN--

THERE WAS A ROAR, AND THERE WAS HEAT AND THEN--



AND THEN THE SCREAMING STARTED.



WE WERE STRUCK, MY LORD. SOMETHING CAME FROM THE SKY SO FAST, EVEN HEIMDALL WAS CAUGHT UNAWARE.

SHOW ME.

aye.



WHO
WOULD
DARE ATTACK
US LIKE THIS,
THOR?

WHAT FOE
WOULD BE SO
BRAZEN, SO
POWERFUL
AS TO--

NOT FOE,
BALDER.



...NOT
FOE.



BETA RAY
BILL!



THOR. MY
BROTHER.

AM I
DEAD? IS
THIS--

ASGARD.

YOU
LANDED IN
ASGARD.



THOR.

I'M
SORRY--
I'M SO--

THEY'RE
COMING. DO
YOU HEAR ME?
THEY ARE
COMING.



WHO?

WHO
DID THIS TO
YOU--TO
ASGARD?



REMEMBER
THIS PAIN.

REMEMBER
WHO INFLICTED
THIS UPON
YOU.

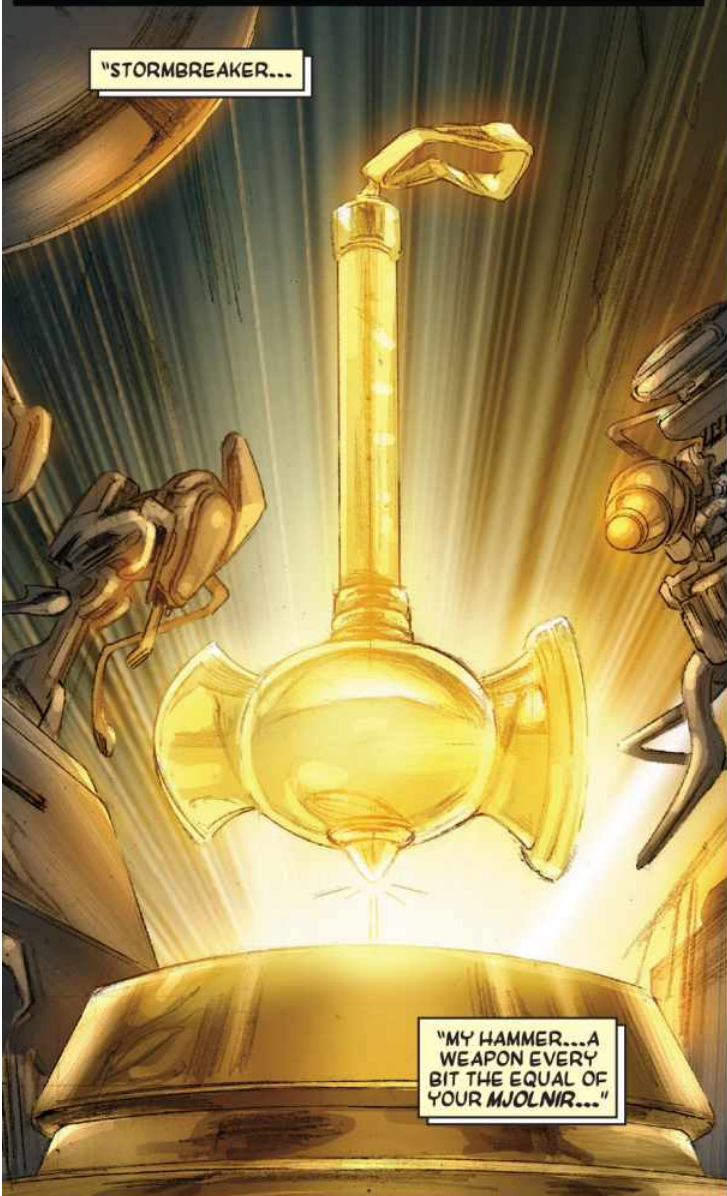
AND
REMEMBER
THIS, OUR
MESSAGE...



"LEAVE
EARTH OR BE
DESTROYED."

SKRULLS.
THEY ARE
COMING, BROTHERS.
AN ENTIRE ARMADA,
ON ITS WAY TO
EARTH.

THEY
DON'T WANT TO
DESTROY MANKIND--
THEY WANT TO SAVE IT.
YOU ASGARDIANS....
THAT'S ANOTHER
STORY.





APPARENTLY, BRAVE BALDER, YOU ARE NOT THE ONLY ONE WONDERING THAT.

ASGARDIANS. A MOMENT OF YOUR TIME.



BAD DAYS ARE COMING. WE HAVE SEEN WORSE.

WHAT THEY DID TO BILL WAS A MESSAGE TO ALL OF US--A THREAT.

THIS MENACE IS VERY REAL. IT IS VERY POWERFUL. AND IT IS TRAVELING A VERY LONG WAY TO DESTROY US ALL.



WE WILL RAISE OUR DEFENSES.

WE WILL FIGHT THEM TO THE LAST.

AND WE WILL DEFEND THOSE THAT CANNOT DEFEND THEMSELVES.



'T WAS I WHO CHOSE TO BRING ASGARD HERE, SO CLOSE TO MORTAL MAN.

AND NOW THAT PROXIMITY-- THAT VERY LINK BETWEEN US, THE DIVINE, AND THOSE THAT GRANT THAT DIVINITY TO US...

COULD I HAVE INADVERTENTLY DOOMED THEM?



TODAY WE FIGHT, BROTHERS AND SISTERS.

TODAY WE STAND UP AND NEVER, EVER RELENT.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS--



PREPARE YOURSELVES:

TODAY WE GO TO WAR.

BROXTON COMES FIRST.
MANKIND MUST BE
PROTECTED ABOVE ALL.

A RUSE WILL
BE REQUIRED.

STORMS.

BRING ME
STORMS.

THERE IS RUMBLING...
SO BIG AND SO
LOUD IT SEEMS TO
COME FROM WITHIN
THE EARTH ITSELF...

GET THE NATIONAL
WEATHER SERVICE ON THE
LINE AND MAKE SURE
THEY'RE SEEING IT,
TOO--

BETWEEN
THAT METEOR
AND NOW THESE
CLOUDS--

WE GOTTA
GET ON
THE AIR WITH

FOLKS,
WE HAVE A BIG,
BAD STORM
THAT'S BEARING
RIGHT DOWN
ON US.

THERE ARE
TORNADIC CELLS
SWEEPING IN TO THE
BROXTON AREA FROM
THE WEST, THE SOUTH
AND--SOMEHOW,
THE EAST.

PEOPLE
IN BROXTON,
YOU'LL NEED TO
TAKE SHELTER
IMMEDIATELY...



BROXTON
KNOWS THE
DRILL.

LIFE IN TORNADO ALLEY
MEANS, PRETTY MUCH FROM
APRIL TO SEPTEMBER, YOU'RE
ALWAYS A LITTLE READY TO
HEAD TO THE BASEMENT.



THE WARNINGS
DON'T LAST LONG.

STORMS
AFTER ALL,
MOVE.



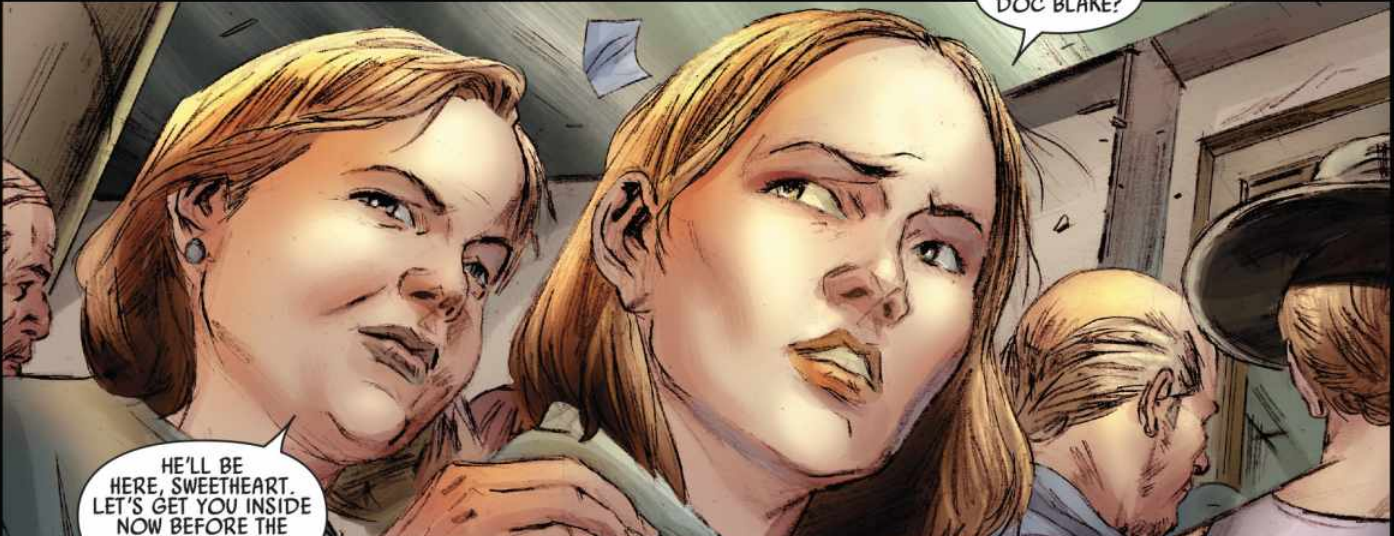
SO BROXTON MOVES
TO SAFETY, BATTENS
DOWN THE HATCHES,
AND HOLDS ON.

THINGS TEND
TO WORK
OUT OKAY.



NOBODY THINKS
MUCH OF IT,
ESPECIALLY IN THE
LATE SUMMER.

STORMS COME
THROUGH, FOLKS
STAY SAFE, AND
EVERYBODY HELPS
EVERYBODY ELSE
CLEAN UP LATER.



...WHERE'S
DOC BLAKE?

HE'LL BE
HERE, SWEETHEART.
LET'S GET YOU INSIDE
NOW BEFORE THE

IN ASGARD, A
SIMILAR SPIRIT
OF PARTNERSHIP
AND COOPERATION
SWEEPS THROUGH
ALL OF ITS CITIZENS.

WELL,
ALMOST
ALL...

SHARPENING
YOUR TALONS
FOR WAR, ER,
TRICKSTER?

aye, you
GIANT OX,
so I am.

and I was
THINKING.

SKRULLS ARE
SHAPESHIFTERS,
YES? ALIENS.

HOW DO
WE TELL *THEM*
FROM US? HOW DO
WE KNOW WE ARE
WHO WE SAY
WE ARE?

says the
woman that
was once a
man.

DON'T
START,
TRICKSTER.
NOT TODAY.

THERE IS
MUCH WORK
TO BE DONE AND
WE DON'T NEED
YOUR MISCHIEF
SLOWING THINGS
DOWN.

BUT LOKI'S
TRICKSTER
SEED HAD
BEEN PLANTED.

AND IT DIDN'T
TAKE LONG FOR
THE FIRST MAN
TO WONDER...

HOW DO WE
KNOW BETA
RAY BULL IS



IT SPREADS.

ONE MAN AT
A TIME, ONE
WHISPER AT
A TIME.



GOOD SOULS
SWEEP UP IN THE
FEAR AND INTENSITY
OF THE MOMENT.



LOKI
WATCHES.

LOKI
SMILES.



LOKI NEVER HAD TO
DO SO LITTLE TO YIELD
SO MUCH DOUBT, AND
FEAR, AND RAGE.



BALDER!

THE PEOPLE OF
ASGARD WERE
CONVINCED THERE
WAS A VILLAIN
AMONGST THEM.

BALDER!



BRING
THE ALIEN
TO US!
NOW!

THERE
IS WORK
TO BE
DONE.

YOU
SHOULD GET



IT'S A SKRULL!

HE'LL LEAD THEM RIGHT TO US!

STEADY, BROTHERS...



BROTHERS, I BEG OF YOU--

WHO PUT THIS ABSURD IDEA IN YOUR HEADS? I SWEAR, BILL IS--



KILL THE ALIEN!

STORM THE HALL!



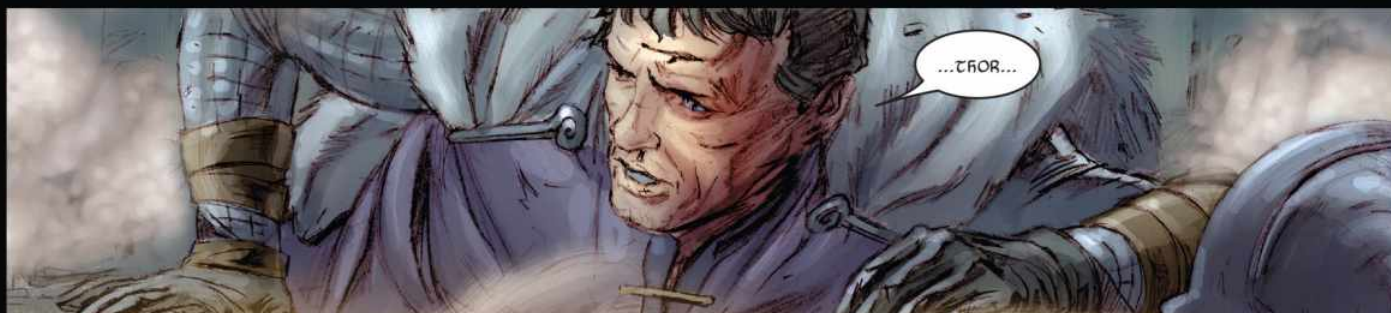
BROTHERS-- I APPEAL TO YOUR REASON-- I--



THUNDER.

KRAKOOOM

FROM EVERYWHERE, ALL AT ONCE, THERE IS THUNDER.



...TFOR...







SEE?
I KNOW
MY BROTHER
WHEN I SEE
HIM.



BUT...
MY LORD...
IF YOU ARE
IN THERE...

WITHOUT
YOU, WHO
SHALL LEAD
US?

YOU, BALDER.
THOR WANTS YOU
TO DO IT, WITH BILL
AS YOUR SECOND.
I HAVE TO GET TO
BROXTON AND
HELP.



WE SHALL
NOT WANT FOR
MUSCLE NOR FOR
FIREPOWER, BRAVE
BALDER.

TRUST
ME WHEN
I PROMISE
YOU THAT.

BILL RETURNED
BLAKE TO BROXTON.

HE WOULD HOLD THE
LINE WITH BALDER IN
ASGARD UNTIL THE
CHILD WAS DELIVERED.



THEY BOTH KNOW
WHAT IS AT STAKE.



THEY ARE BROTHERS
BORN OF WARFARE
AND STRIFE; IT IS A BOND
FEW UNDERSTAND.



IT IS A BOND
ETERNALLY
UNBREAKABLE.

AND IT WILL
PROVE TO BE
INVALUABLE...



...BECAUSE ALL
HELL IS COMING
TO BROXTON.



OH GOD
OH GOD
OH GOD

THAT'S IT--
THAT'S IT--

OKAY--
=PSSHHHHH=

OKAY OKAY.
OKAY.

IT'S
PASSING NOW.
OKAY.



THEY'RE
GETTING
STRONGER.

YEP.
THAT'S WHAT
HAPPENS.

OKAY.
CAN WE WALK
AGAIN?



GREAT
IDEA. NICE
AND EASY.

BREATHE
IN BIG AND LET'S
PERAMBULATE
A BIT.

PERAMMAWHAT?



"PERAMBULATE."
MEANS WALK, BUT I
CAN'T SAY "WALK" AROUND
MY DOGS, OR EVEN SPELL
W-A-L-K, BECAUSE THEY
KNOW WHAT IT MEANS
AND GO NUTS.

I'M SURE
THEY'LL FIGURE IT
OUT, BUT FOR NOW,
IT'S MY WORD
FOR "WALK."



YOU'RE
TRYING TO
DISTRACT ME
SOME, AREN'T
YOU?

GET MY
MIND OFF THE
FACT DOC
BLAKE'S NOT
HERE YET.



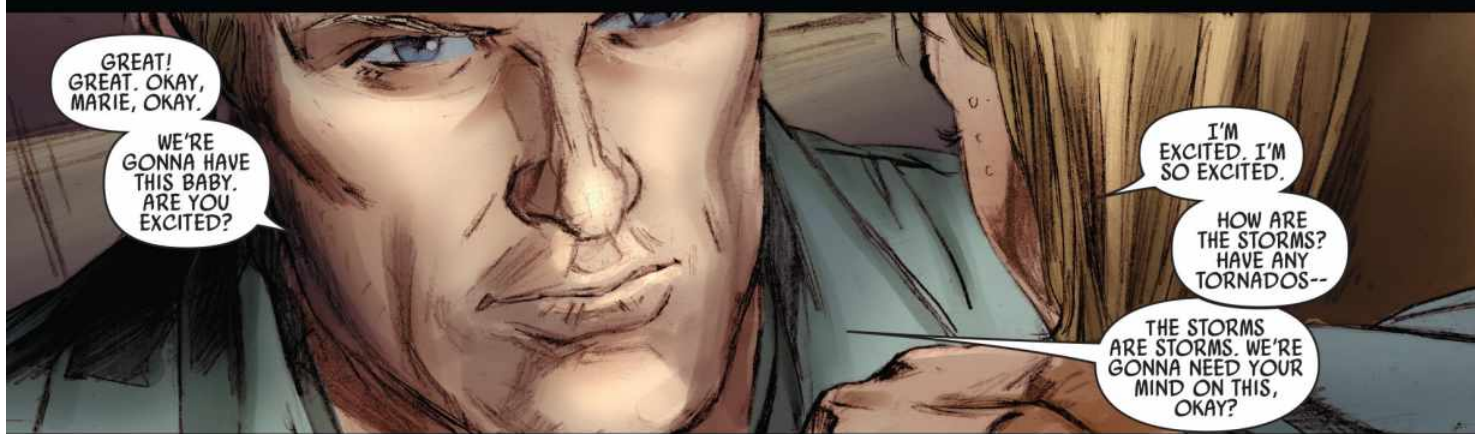
MARIE?



DOC! OH--
DOC, THANK
GOD.

HOW
FAR APART
ARE--

TEN
MINUTES ON
THE LAST
ONE.



GREAT!
GREAT. OKAY,
MARIE, OKAY.

WE'RE
GONNA HAVE
THIS BABY.
ARE YOU
EXCITED?

I'M
EXCITED. I'M
SO EXCITED.

HOW ARE
THE STORMS?
HAVE ANY
TORNADOS--

THE STORMS
ARE STORMS. WE'RE
GONNA NEED YOUR
MIND ON THIS,
OKAY?



YOU, ME,
AND NURSE MCGEE
HERE, WE'RE ALL JUST
GONNA FOCUS ON
YOUR BABY AND
NOT WORRY
ABOUT--

KOOOOOON



HOLY...

WAS THAT
THUNDER?

NO.

IT WAS NOT
THUNDER.

To Be Continued...

SECRET INVASION

PART
ONE

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next issue

